

Claims

1. A method for controlling a system for processing information stored on a selected storage medium, including a program and a plurality of portions of program information, the method comprising the steps of:
- 5 accessing and processing (127) a first one of the plurality of portions of program information during a playback mode of operation; and
- providing (134) to a user, during the playback mode of operation, an opportunity to select a second one of the plurality of portions of program
- 10 information responsive to user input, characterized by
- determining (130,150) all of the possible portions of program information permitted on the storage medium in conformance with the DVD specification,
- determining (132,152) the portions of program information actually
- 15 present on the selected storage medium comprising evaluating control data stored on the selected digital video disk, and
- generating (134,154) an on-screen display displaying all of the possible portions of program information permitted on the storage medium and which of the possible portions of program information are actually present on the
- 20 selected storage medium, the display allowing the user to select (136,156) one of the portions of program information actually present on the selected storage medium.
2. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the portions of
- 25 program information comprises chapters, audio streams or subtitle streams.
3. The method of claim 2, characterized in that if the portions of program information comprises audio streams, the on-screen display (102) provides information indicating a language, a type of audio information, and a
- 30 number of channels associated with the audio information.

4. The method of claim 2, characterized in that the generating step comprises generating an on-screen display (102) as an overlay onto a portion of a video display for enabling a user to select the second one of the plurality of portions of program information while continuing to watch program playback in a background portion of the video display.

5. The method of claim 3, characterized in that the generating step comprises generating (134,154) an on-screen display to allow a user to select the second one of the plurality of portions of program information without interrupting a PLAY mode of the system.

6. Apparatus for processing information stored on a storage medium including a program and a plurality of portions of program information, the apparatus comprising:

a data processing unit (28,30) for accessing and processing the program and a selected one of the plurality of portions of program information during a PLAY mode of operation;

a user control device (41) for receiving user input;

an on-screen display unit (34,35) for generating on-screen displays; and

a control unit (40), coupled to the data processing unit, user control device, and on-screen display unit, for conditioning the storage medium data processing unit to activate the play mode of operation in response to user input, the apparatus providing to the user an opportunity to selected a second one of the plurality of program information, characterized in that,

the control unit determines (130,150) all of the possible portions of program information permitted on the storage medium in conformance with the DVD specification, and determines (132,152) the portions of program information actually present on the selected storage medium comprising evaluating control data stored on the selected digital video disk, and

the on-screen display unit generates (134,154) an on-screen display displaying all of the possible portions of program information permitted on the storage medium and which of the possible portions of program information are

actually present on the selected storage medium, the display allowing the user to select one of the portions of program information actually present on the selected storage medium.

5 7. The method of claim 6, characterized in that the portions of program information comprises chapters, audio streams or subtitle streams.

8. The method of claim 7, characterized in that if the portions of program information comprises audio streams, the on-screen display (102)
10 includes information indicating a language, a type of audio information, and a number of channels associated with the audio information.

9. The method of claim 7, characterized in that the on-screen display (102) is an overlay onto a portion of a video display for enabling a user to select
15 the second one of the plurality of portions of program information while continuing to watch program playback in a background portion of the video display.

10. The method of claim 8, characterized in that the on-screen display (102) allows a user to select the second one of the plurality of portions of
20 program information without interrupting a PLAY mode of the system.

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